



# ARTS Newsletter

Winter 2013

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*This newsletter is part of an ongoing effort of the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) to share information about transportation issues and activities with the citizens of the metropolitan area.*

## AUGUSTA CANAL TRAIL EXTENSION BEGINS



Mobilization and construction began February 4<sup>th</sup> on Phase III of Augusta Canal's River Levee Trail. Approximately 1,800 linear feet of concrete trail will be installed behind the Sibley and King Mills. Two bridges will be installed; a prefabricated Steadfast bridge over the Sibley Mill tailrace, and a suspension bridge over the wider King Mill tailrace (pictured at left). The tailraces discharge water from the canal back to the Savannah River after it goes through the mills' hydropower turbines. The pedestrian and bicycle trail, formerly called the New Bartram Trail, starts near Goodrich Street and the canal aqueduct at

Rae's Creek. Future phases will tie into the existing trail in front of Waters Edge and Riverwalk. Construction will require occasional lane closures on Riverwatch Parkway and its access ramps. Substantial completion of this segment of the trail is expected by the end of July.

Source: Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, News Release, February 5, 2013

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UNDERWAY

### FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS:

**GDOT Area Office—  
Augusta** (706) 855-3466

**GDOT District 2 —  
Tennille**  
(478)-552-4601

**Augusta Engineering  
Department** (706) 796-5040

**Augusta Traffic Engineering Division** (706) 821-1841

**Columbia County Road Construction Department** (706) 447-7600

**Columbia County Traffic Engineering Department** (706) 868-4223

**Augusta Public Transit**  
(706) 821-1721



The Augusta Sustainable Development Implementation Program is well underway. This planning project consists of four interrelated planning initiatives designed to implement sustainable development in a target area centered on Fifteenth Street, Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Deans Bridge Road (Georgia State Route 4). The project kick-off public meeting was held on August 29, 2012 at T. W. Josey High School. A visual preference survey was used to solicit initial ideas from the public about the appropriate future character

for the study area.

A five-day design charrette in November gave neighborhood residents and other stakeholders the opportunity to share more specific ideas and suggestions for redevelopment. The charrette resulted in a draft illustrative plan focused on new affordable housing, an enhanced transportation network for all users and new neighborhood-oriented commercial development at accessible locations.

Project consultants then refined the illustrative plan with the help of four advisory committees and presented the results at an open house held on February 12, 2013. The framework plan presented at the open house includes recommendations in the areas of land use, transportation and transit, economic development, urban design, historic resources, environment, public facilities and affordable housing. The recommendations were applied to concept plans developed for the following areas – Cherry Tree, Oates Creek, Dogwood Terrace, Southgate and Rocky Creek / Regency Mall. The project will take several more months to complete and includes additional public involvement. For additional information go to the project website: <http://augustasustainable.com/>

## WORK SAFETY ZONES



At any given time there are multiple road construction and maintenance projects going on in our region. Motorists are reminded to be aware of work zones and to observe the following work zone safety driving checklist:

- ☒ Obey the posted speed limits
- ☒ Be alert for workers and dangerous conditions
- ☒ Plan an alternate route if possible to avoid work zones
- ☒ Always wear your seatbelt
- ☒ Avoid distractions (cell phones, texting)
- ☒ Yield the right of way

## BICYCLE / PEDESTRIAN WEBINARS

The CSRA Regional Commission will be hosting a 2013 webinar series sponsored by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. All the webinars will be held in the first floor conference room of the Enterprise Mill, 1450 Greene Street, Augusta. The date, time and topic of each webinar is as follows:

- April 17, 3-4 p.m. - **Economic Benefits of Walkable and Bike Friendly Communities**
- May 15, 3-4 p.m. - **Bike Signals**
- July 17, 3-4 p.m. - **From Paint to Preform: Getting the Most from Pavement Markings**
- September 18, 3-4 p.m. - **Bicycle Boulevards and Neighborhood Greenways**
- November 13, 3-4 p.m. - **Maps that Guide, Encourage and Inform**

For additional information contact Mr. Jason Hardin at the Regional Commission:

[jhardin@csrarc.ga.gov](mailto:jhardin@csrarc.ga.gov) or phone (706) 210-2000

## CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE VACANCIES



Volunteers are needed to fill vacancies on the ARTS Citizens Advisory Committee. CAC members provide a valuable service to the community by sharing ideas and concerns about the transportation network and planning for future projects. It also provides an opportunity to interact with local, state and federal officials directly involved in transportation planning and project implementation. Representatives are needed from Augusta, Columbia County and Aiken County, so consider becoming a CAC member and / or share this information with someone else who might be interested in serving.

To find out more about CAC membership contact Ms. Lynn Russell at [russell@augustaga.gov](mailto:russell@augustaga.gov) or phone (706) 821-1796

## UPCOMING ROAD PROJECTS

The following projects are scheduled to be let for bids by GDOT on May 17, 2013:

- **SR 232 / Columbia Rd.** - widen to 4 lanes from CR 221 / Old Belair Rd. to SR 383 / Belair Rd. (PI # 231440)
- **William Few Parkway Extension** – extend on new alignment from near Washington Rd. to Hardy McManus Rd. (PI # 250620)
- **I-520 / Bobby Jones Expressway** - resurface from east of SR 56 / Mike Padgett Hwy. to a point west of the Laney-Walker Blvd. / Sand Bar Ferry Rd. interchange, a distance of about 5.6 miles. (PI # M004317).

### ***Tips to Save Gas and Reduce Air Pollution***

*~Walk, bike, take a bus or carpool when possible*

*~ Combine errands into one trip*

*~ Avoid revving or idling engine over 30 seconds*

## AIKEN COUNTY NEWS

### SPECIAL STUDIES

The **Dougherty Road Corridor Study** is approximately 60% complete. The second of three public meetings was held on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at the Knights of Columbus hall in Aiken. The meeting gave the public an opportunity to review and comment on alternative road and network design solutions for the corridor. The study kicked off in September 2012 and is anticipated to be completed in May 2013.

Aiken County Planning & Development, in cooperation with the City of Aiken, is gearing up to execute a contract with a consultant for the **SC 19 (Edgefield Highway) Corridor Study**. The study area will stretch from Hampton Avenue near downtown Aiken to the Edgefield County line, and the study is anticipated to be completed in 10 months.

### SURFACE ROAD PROJECTS

**SC 302 (Silver Bluff Road)** - Right-of-way acquisition for this corridor improvement project is scheduled to begin in the winter of 2013 and take approximately 12 months to complete. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of next year at the earliest.

**SC 118 (Hitchcock Parkway)** - South Carolina DOT officials met with the project consultant in January to incorporate changes in the concept for the road widening project based on public comments received during last November's public information meeting. A second public meeting will be scheduled in approximately three months.

**SC 125 (E. Buena Vista Avenue / Atomic Road)** - The environmental document is complete and right-of-way acquisition for this corridor improvement project is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2013.

**US 25/Walnut Lane**—Construction has started on this corridor improvement project.

**SC 126 (Belvedere - Clearwater Road)** - Surveys are complete for this road widening project.

For additional information about any of these projects contact Gerald Jefferson, Aiken County Planning and Development Department at (803) 642-1520 Ext. 2603 or [gjefferson@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:gjefferson@aikencountysc.gov).

## AIR QUALITY NEWS

**North Augusta Park and Ride Facility** - This project is scheduled to be let for bids in May 2013. The facility is to be located off Exit 5 at the intersection of I-20 and U.S. Highway 25. Based on the detailed scope of work, the estimated cost of the facility has risen to \$1.2 million. As a result, an additional \$600,000 needs to be added to the construction phase. Approval of the additional funding is pending before the ARTS Policy Committee.

**U.S. EPA Launches My Green Apps Site** - EPA recently launched *My Green Apps*, a site with over 100 environmental apps that help the public understand and protect the environment. The apps can be sorted by topic or platform, and visitors can suggest an existing app EPA can add to the site. In addition, EPA requests ideas that should be turned into apps.

Visit *My Green Apps* at  
[www.epa.gov/mygreenapps/](http://www.epa.gov/mygreenapps/)

Source: SCDHEC, Bureau of Air Quality Update, January 8, 2013.

**Clean Air Campaign Update** - The Clean Air Campaign has been an important partner and resource for several years in our collective effort to improve air quality. Due to federal funding cutbacks, the Clean Air Campaign is no longer able to offer employer services and commuter incentives in our region. However, the Clean Air campaign remains a committed stakeholder in our air quality initiatives and continues to offer the following programs:

- Website for individuals to log commute
- Ride matching system for carpools and vanpools
- Commuter Champions Program
- Smog Alerts for the Augusta area
- Diesel Idle Program for Employers

For additional information go to the Clean Air Campaign website:

[www.cleanaircampaign.org](http://www.cleanaircampaign.org)



**Augusta Planning and Development Department**  
**525 Telfair Street**  
**Augusta, GA 30901**

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US POSTAGE

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AUGUSTA, GA

PERMIT #363

### **UPCOMING ARTS MEETINGS**

**Policy Committee Meeting**  
March 7, 2013, 11:00 AM  
June 6, 2013, 11:00 AM

**TCC and CAC Meeting**  
May 8, 2013, 10:30 AM

ARTS committee meetings are held on the 8th Floor of the Municipal Building at 530 Greene Street, Augusta, GA. Please call (706) 821-1796 to verify the time and location.

### **Augusta Regional Transportation Study Contacts**

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#### **ARTS Transportation Planner (vacant)**

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**2748 Wagener Rd., Aiken, SC 29801,**  
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Connie Shade, **Director**  
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**<http://www.augustaga.gov/index.aspx?nid=680>**